



Great Glen Newsletter

January 2021

Registered Charity No.1099411

www.greatglenu3a.co.uk



Chair's Chat

Hello everyone

On New Year's Day Patricia and I listened, as usual, to the special concert performed by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. The setting lacked none of its usual imperial splendour and, though the event itself was slightly scaled down for Covid restrictions, there was much to delight and our spirits were once again uplifted. I found the words of Maestro Riccardo Muti, the conductor, towards the end when he addressed Heads of Government, especially resonant. He urged them, while giving priority to the physical health of their peoples round the world in the fight against the pandemic, to also remember their mental health and in particular the irreplaceable contribution made by the performing arts. A contribution not dissimilar I felt to that made locally by our u3a, and a reminder that we, the members, must strive to treasure and sustain it.

Speaking of which, we shall have further vacancies on the Committee in the foreseeable future. I should be very pleased to hear from anyone potentially interested. Previous experience of committee work is helpful, but not essential. Experience of website development / operation, marketing and secretarial work would all be of particular interest but not to the exclusion of those with other skills.

Despite the latest restrictions and natural concerns about the proliferation of the virus, there is fresh hope on the horizon as the 'Oxford University' Astra Zeneca vaccine joins the weapons in the armoury of the NHS. It is encouraging to begin to see a pathway to the resumption of normal gatherings. It is clear though that deploying the vaccine will take months, especially as the booster jab will be administered three months (according to plan) after the initial one. So, we must continue to be patient and to be very careful, and to make the most of ways of keeping in touch and keeping our u3a alive via Zoom, Whats App, telephone and so on. Great Glen U3A is always open to new ideas on this front.

Your Committee was heartened to see a significant increase in the numbers joining in the Christmas monthly meeting by Zoom. Once again, we had an excellent speaker, and my thanks go to those of our members who contributed live readings and music to complete the programme. We sang our hearts out, offending no one with a false note as we were mute! Feedback from participants has been very positive and we have learned a few things about how to do this even better, should there be a next time. Thanks also to Peter and Sue Russell for putting on events and opportunities to socialise over the Christmas / New Year period.

My very best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy 2021, the year in which Great Glen U3A achieves its twentieth birthday, an event we hope to mark in style perhaps as part of national u3a celebrations. Stay active and stay safe!

Robert Mansfield [chairman/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 0116 270 8284

Committee News

Get into Zoom for Group Meetings

It is great to see familiar faces even if you cannot meet in person. The app is available for all PCs, laptops and tablets and it lets you join or virtual meetings with other members who you can see and hear.



Zoom
hold

Installation of Zoom is usually quite straightforward. If you would like help in setting it up on your device, then Sue and I are happy to help on a one-to-one basis over the phone.

Zoom Meeting Hosts... We now have two Zoom Pro licences which means that the enforced break after 40 minutes is not necessary. Contact me if you wish to use the Pro licence for your session.

Peter Russell

[webmaster/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

01572 822198

**A thank you
for
Christmas Day Zoom
And
The Christmas to New Year Zoom Chat Line**

We thank Peter and Sue Russell for their time and effort in setting up the Zoom Chat Line over the Christmas and New Year Holiday period.

It was very much appreciated, and we wish all Great Glen U3A members a Happy,
Healthy and Peaceful New year.

Peter and Phyllis Stanley



2021 is the 20th year since the start of the Great Glen u3a and we hope to be able to celebrate this event at some point during the year.

Please could we ask you all to look in cupboards, glory holes and even garages to be if you have any mementos of events of the past 20 years of GGu3a – these could be documents, papers, photos, or scrapbooks that may contain any or all of these.

If you cannot find actual papers or information do you have any interesting stories to tell about the early days of the group – we will happily write these down if you are willing to talk to us.

Please contact Robert Mansfield if you could help us on:

[chairman/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk) or 0116 270 8284

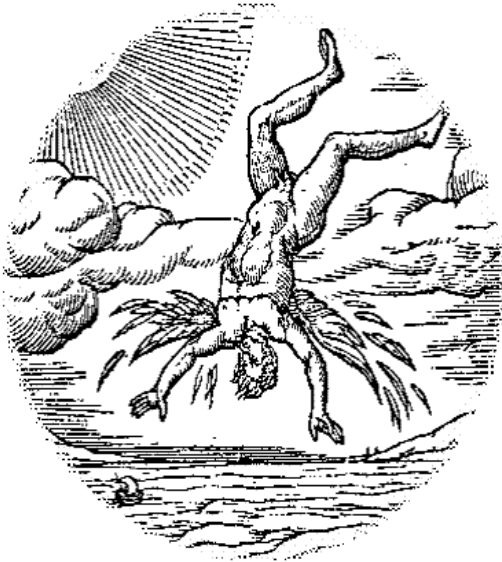
Monthly Meetings



ZOOM MONTHLY MEETING
12 JANUARY 2021 AT 10.30 a.m.



Meeting opens at 10.15 a.m.



Another Icarus: The rise and fall of Percy Pilcher... and the Art of Flight

The tale of aviation pioneer **Percy Sinclair Pilcher** and his wonderful sister, **Ella**, whose noble quest for flight ended tragically at Stanford Hall, on the banks of Shakespeare's Avon, the first Englishman to die in the cause of 'the conquest of the air' when on the cusp of becoming the most famous name in aviation history. Roy Smart presents this magnificent man, his flying machines - and the historic, but unheralded achievements, of his wonderful sister, the redoubtable **Ella Sophia Gertrude**, probably the very first woman to fly! - in a colourful context of music, poetry, Greek myth, art and the beginnings of flight.

Profile of the Speaker

Roy Smart was a Naval Officer, Fleet Air Arm pilot and air director of many great national memorial events including the televised D Day, VE and VJ Day commemorations attended by the Queen and fifty heads of state, together with flying displays and aviation pageants.

With an interest in history and art, he recently contributed to the BBC Radio centenary commemorations of the Battle of Jutland. He lives in East Haddon, Northamptonshire.

This promises to be a lively talk

– so do join us at the meeting

on Tuesday 12 January between 10.15 to 10.30a.m.

AND FOR NEXT MONTH ON 09 FEBRUARY 2021
OUR
ZOOM MONTHLY MEETING
IS...



oooh la la!
Kicks and Frills:
The story of the
French Cancan

Presented by
David Price



Did you know that the first cancan dancers were men?

Or that the original dance was a ballroom dance?

It was only much later that it became an all- women chorus line stage dance. These and other curious facts are revealed in the talk on the cancan based on David's book on the dance, *Cancan!*

The cancan first appeared in 1830 and by the 1860's people were describing it as the '*French National Dance*', but it is most associated with the 1890's when Toulouse-Lautrec's famous models LaGoulue and Jane Avril were dancing at the Moulin Rouge.

The talk is illustrated with film clips (with music), contemporary photographs, cartoons and paintings

This could be a talk that gets a few hearts beating faster with the thrills of the dance – so do join us



For email replace / at / with @

GROUP NEWS

The front page of our website has a link to a list of all activities currently running on zoom, email or in other ways. Go to www.greatglenu3a.co.uk. *Zoom meetings are open to all members of our u3a – just contact the Group Leader if you would like to join in.*

Our groups keeping in touch through e-mail and/or telephone are:

- **Tabletop Games** who have a weekly quizzes and challenges
- **Mini Bridge** who have a daily quiz

Our groups keeping in touch through Zoom are:

- **History, Family History, French for Beginners, Mini Bridge, New Age Kurling, Monday Book Group, Thursday Book Group, Ukuleles, Writing for Pleasure, and Zoom Quiz**

And **Walking without Stiles** hopes to start walking again soon

LEARN SOMETHING NEW



Sing yourself happy!

Wednesday 13 January 3.30 – 5.00pm

To start the New Year, we are going to beat the doom and gloom of our current situation with a rousing sing along of **HAPPY SONGS!** There will be an assortment, from the 40s through to the 90s, but all of them will be cheerful and uplifting. Something for everyone. So, brighten your day by coming along and joining in!

On Zoom we can't actually sing together so no-one will hear you sing. You can **hear** the soundtrack, you can see the words, you can see others singing. So go for it! Sing along and raise the roof! What could be better? After the singing, the meeting will remain open for you to stop and chat, if you wish

The Zoom link will be sent out shortly before the meeting to everyone who has given us an email address, so if you receive the newsletter on email you will be included. No need to register but do put the date in your diary now.

Singing together is a great morale booster, so do come and join us.

See you there.

Sue Russell

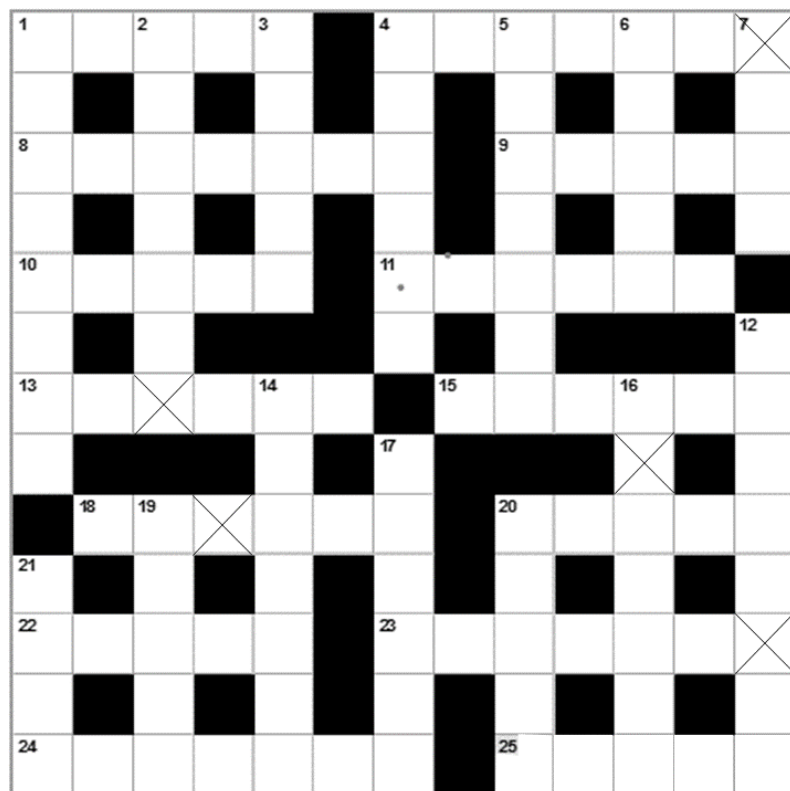
[lsn/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:lsn/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

07976 263206



LSN Crossword Challenge

A Crossword Challenge to keep you occupied through the lockdown.



Solve the crossword then note down the letters in the 5 squares marked X.

Make them into a word and email it to lsn/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk. Sender of the first correct answer gets a mention next month!

Across

- 1 70s dance style
- 4 Manufacturing facility
- 8 Noughts and _____
- 9 Declare invalid
- 10 Flowers or chocolates!
- 11 Part of a person's foot
- 13 Speckled songbird
- 15 Previous name of the Inuit
- 18 A market in the middle east
- 20 Perfect happiness, great joy
- 22 Raise using ropes and pulleys
- 23 Largest living primate
- 24 Musicians' public performance
- 25 A useful or valuable thing or person

Down

- 1 Embellish
- 2 A native of Liverpool
- 3 Water hole in the desert
- 4 Skeletal remains in rock or ground
- 5 Basic frame of a wheeled vehicle
- 6 Imperial measure of weight
- 7 Part of an egg
- 12 Continuous, unchanging
- 14 Make someone jump suddenly
- 16 Frozen dripping water
- 17 Light, highly coloured
- 19 From the largest continent
- 20 Long, loose garment worn by Moslem women
- 21 Elegant and stylish

Last Month's Solution

Across: 1 Believable, 7 Veil, 8 Unpaid, 9 Unicorn, 10 Scouring, 11 Bears, 13 Steeple, 14 Grape, 17 Agitator, 18 Avocado, 19 Chance, 20 Lair, 21 Enthusiast

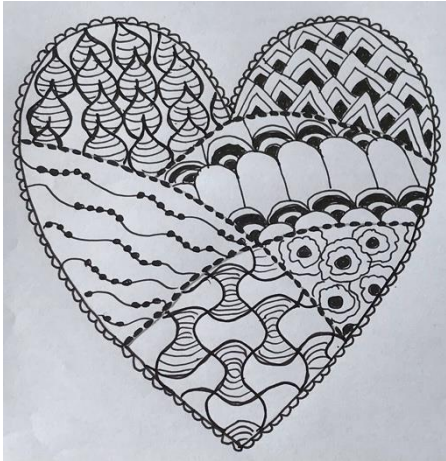
Down: 1 Bruising, 2 Laptop, 3 Emigrate, 4 Bling, 5 Evacuee, 6 Mirror, 9 Undergo, 11 Blotches, 12 Shortest, 13 Spectre, 15 Reveal, 16 Stanza, 17 Adapt

The letters were EILMS. Congratulations to **Jenny Hawley** who was first with SMILE (my answer!) and to **Robert Mansfield**, who was first with SLIME.

For email replace / at / with @

Valentine Heart Zentangle

Friday 22 January 10.30am on Zoom



Looking for something easy but creative to do? This could be the solution.

Zentangle is an easy-to-learn, relaxing way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns called tangles. Anyone can do it - you don't need any artistic skill. To get started all you need is a black pen and a piece of plain white paper. This zoom session will show you how to create some simple tangles and combine them to make a Zentangle Valentines Heart

Why not give it a try?

To take part email [lsn/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:lsn/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk). I will send out a template and a meeting link that you can click to join. If you haven't used Zoom before but have access to the internet with a tablet (iPad or Android), or laptop, let me know and I will help you get set up.

I look forward to seeing you.

Sue Russell

[lsn/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:lsn/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

07976 263206

2020 – I did this!

Wednesday 27 January 2.30pm



We all had more time during last year to spend on our hobbies or learning new skills. What did you do?

This session is an opportunity for you to share your achievements with other members. It can be anything you did last year, finished or still in progress. It could be any craft, art, writing, photography, or any new skill you have learned.

This is the zoom meeting ID and password.

Meeting ID: 957 7031 8498

Passcode: 312163

Anyone can join to see what our members have been doing. If you have something to share do let me know beforehand at [lsn/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:lsn/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk).

Great Glen U3A members have hidden talents! Let's get together and celebrate the creativity and resourcefulness of our members. See you there

Sue Russell

[lsn/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:lsn/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

Some special information from groups

Writing for Pleasure

We are a fairly small, friendly group of individuals, male and female, with our own different styles of writing. We have just published a book of memories. The Group meets by Zoom on the fourth Tuesdays at 2.30 p.m. sharing ideas and pieces by email between meetings. We write a short piece of prose or poetry each month on a common theme. This month's theme "Behind the Door" has taken us to some unexpected places and outcomes! We have also just embarked upon a joint venture to write a crime story. We are looking for a few more members. Anyone interested please contact me.

Robert Mansfield
8284

[writing/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:writing@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

270



Ukuleles

The Uke Group is meeting weekly during the Lockdown on Monday mornings on Zoom. Not only improving our skills but also a social event!

Alan Mawby

[ukes/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ukes@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

Quiz Group

The next Zoom quiz is on Monday 25 January at 2:30pm. 50 questions, some simple, others not quite so but a pleasant way to pass an afternoon with lots of GGU3A members. If you have not joined in before, please come along and have a go. I can send you the joining details if you contact me.

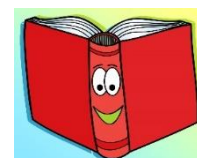
Peter Russell/Rachael Snashall [webmaster/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

Monday Book Group

Our next meeting on Zoom will be on Monday 18 January at 2 pm. We will be discussing "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens. Thank you again to Hazel and Robert for organizing the Zoom meetings. We are all enjoying them.

Liz Adams

[books/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:books@greatglenu3a.co.uk)



Thursday Book Group

Our next Thursday book group is by zoom on Thursday 28th January. The book is The Music Shop by Rachael Joyce.

New members are always welcome. Please contact ...

Patricia Mansfield

[patriciamansfield/ at /btinternet.com](mailto:patriciamansfield@btinternet.com)

History Group

Meetings are being held on the first Monday 2.30pm, using Zoom. On February 1st 2021 we shall be looking at the origins of well-known organisations and everyday products and services. Everyone is welcome, but if you are new to the group, please let me know that you want join in so that I can include you in the Zoom invitation.

Peter Russell

[history/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:history@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

For email replace / at / with @

Zoom Chat for all – Open to Everyone

We hold short Zoom meetings for any GGU3A members on alternate Friday mornings at 10:30 to chat and play any games we can manage on Zoom – ‘Countdown letters’ is our current favourite. If you’re not otherwise engaged please come along The next meetings are on 15 and 29 January. If you’ve not been before let me know and I’ll email the joining details to you.

Peter Russell

[kurling/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:kurling/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

Solving Cryptic Crosswords Together

We have a go at collectively solving the Times Quick Cryptic Crossword for the day. If you can help, or need help, then come along and join in. You don’t even need the newspaper. The next sessions are on Mondays 11 and 18 January 2.30-4.00pm. If you’ve not been before and need joining details let me know and I’ll email them to you.

Peter Russell

[lsn/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:lsn/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

Family History

A Happy New Year to all our regulars.

Our next meeting will be at 10.00 am on Wednesday 13 January on Zoom. A light-hearted talk looking at ‘What Happened When’ - dates in family history. Invitations will be sent on Monday 11 January 2021. All welcome, especially newcomers.

If you want a new hobby during these torrid times, and you have a computer, this is for you. We are all willing to help you get started and point you in the right direction. A warning – it is very addictive – but very enjoyable. Finding your roots can be a joy.

Let me know if you would like an invitation to join us as a taster..... or more....

Toni Smith

[familyhistory/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:familyhistory/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

French for Beginners – Lets Learn Together

Beginners group are continuing to meet on Zoom on first and third Tuesday each month 10.00am. If anyone wishes to join the group, they can contact ...

Jan Johnson

[frenchbeginners/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:frenchbeginners/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

Military History

The February meeting will cover Great Glen and the Battle of Naseby, on Zoom at 10.30 on Wednesday 03 February. The subject of the meeting on 03 March is Battleships: Dominance and Decline.

New members are welcome. For details and Zoom meeting information please contact...

Alan Mawby

[militaryhistory/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:militaryhistory/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

Walking without Stiles

I wish everyone in the walking group a Happy New Year and I am sorry that due to government restrictions we will not be able to restart the group for a few months.

As soon as it is safe to do so we will restart. In the meantime, I hope that everyone is enjoying the signs of new life on your individual walks and managing to find paths which are not too waterlogged or too wet!

Elizabeth Cooke

[walking/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:walking/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

And finally....

With thanks to the Counteshorpe u3a Newsletter

The Shape that I'm in!

There is nothing the matter with me - I'm as healthy as I can be.
I have arthritis in both my knees, and when I talk I talk with a wheeze.
My pulse is weak, my blood is thin, but I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Arch supports I have for my feet or I wouldn't be able to walk down the street.
Sleep is denied me night after night but every morning I find I'm alright.
My memory is failing, my heads in a spin, but I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

The moral of this, as this tale unfolds, is that for me and you who are growing old
It's better to say "I'm fine" with a grin, than to let folks know the shape that you're in
How do I know that my youth is all spent? Well my get up and go has got up and went.

But I don't mind as I think with a grin of all the grand places my get up has been.
Old age is golden, I've heard it said, but sometimes I wonder as I get into bed,
With my ears in the drawer, teeth in a cup, and my eyes on the table until I wake up.

Ere sleep overcomes me, I say to myself, "is there anything else to put on the shelf"?
When I was young my slippers were red, I could kick my heels over my head.
When I grew older my slippers were blue, but I could still dance the whole night through.

Now I am old, my slippers are black, I walk to the store and puff my way back.
Get up in the morning and dust off my wits, pick up the paper and read the obits.
If my name is still missing I know I'm not dead! I have a good breakfast and go back to bed.

